



INTRODUCTION

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Airport Master Plan *Eloy Municipal Airport*

The Eloy Municipal Airport Master Plan was undertaken in 1997 by the City of Eloy with the assistance of grants-in-aid from the Arizona Department of Transportation, Aeronautics Division (ADOT). The purpose of the Airport Master Plan was to provide a comprehensive analysis of airport needs, define its role within the regional airport system, and evaluate alternatives with the intent of providing direction for the future development of this facility.

The preparation of the Master Plan is evidence that the City of Eloy recognizes the importance of Eloy Municipal Airport

to the region, as well as the associated challenges inherent in accommodating future aviation needs. The cost of maintaining an airport is an investment which yields significant benefits to a community. By maintaining a sound and flexible Master Plan, Eloy Municipal Airport can become a greater economic asset and a source of pride to the residents of the Eloy and surrounding communities.

As part of the contract for this Master Plan, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was to be completed on the proposed short-term development at the Airport,

including those of a proposed runway extension. The previous Master Plan, which was completed in 1988, had recommended an 800-foot extension to Runway 20 (to the north). The subsequent EA was suspended as a result of the identification of an archaeological resource site which would be impacted by the project.

With regard to this Master Plan and planned EA, in August 1997, agency coordination letters were sent to various local, state and federal agencies requesting input on the proposed alternatives at Eloy Municipal Airport. Subsequent to the agency coordination and completion of additional archaeological surveys, it was determined that any runway extension to the north, as originally proposed, would result in impacts to an identified archaeological resource site. Under Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Act, these impacts are not permitted where a viable alternative exists. In this case, the runway could be extended to the south, avoiding the sensitive site.

Upon identification of this concern, City officials discussed/evaluated the options with representatives of ADOT - Aeronautics and the FAA. These meetings occurred over the course of two years during which work on the Master Plan was suspended. Ultimately, the City decided to seek public input.

In February 2000, the City Council held a public hearing at which time they

reviewed the information received, the anticipated environmental consequences, and the U.S. DOT Act requirements. Following public input which opposed extending the runway to the south, the City Council voted that any runway extension at Eloy Municipal Airport would go to the north. Subsequently, in light of Section 4 (f) of the U.S. DOT Act and as a result of discussions between both the City of Eloy and ADOT, it was decided that an Environmental Evaluation (EE) rather than an EA would be prepared. The authorization to complete the final three chapters (Airport Plans, Financial Plan, and Environmental Evaluation) of the Master Plan was received from the City of Eloy in September 2000.

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of the Airport Master Plan was to develop and maintain a long-term development program which will yield a safe, efficient, economical, and environmentally acceptable air transportation facility. The accomplishment of this objective required the evaluation of the existing Airport and a determination of what actions should be taken to maintain an adequate, safe, and reliable airport facility to meet the needs of the area. The completed Master Plan provides an outline of the necessary development and gives responsible officials advance notice of future needs to aid in planning, scheduling, and budgeting.

Specific objectives of this Master Plan included:

- **Inventory of Existing Conditions** - Assemble and organize relevant information and data for the City of Eloy, the Airport service area, and the State of Arizona.
- **Forecasts** - Develop projections of future aviation activity, by quantity and type.
- **Facility Requirements** - Estimate the current and future needs of airfield capacity. Identify the facility requirements needed to meet projected demand for existing, short, intermediate, and long term time frames.
- **Airport Alternatives** - Evaluate concepts of the various alternatives for airport development as determined by current and future facility requirements.
- **Airport Layout Plan** - Refine the recommended airport development concept into the Airport's final plan

for development.

- **Financial Plan** - Prepare a capital improvement program to assist in the implementation of the recommended development plan. Establish development priorities, schedule proposed development items and estimate development costs, as well as a determination of the Airport's future cash flow.
- **Environmental Evaluation** - Perform a preliminary environmental overview to identify potential environmental concerns that will need to be addressed for the various proposed improvements.

In addition to the City of Eloy, ADOT, the FAA, and the consultant team, a Planning Advisory Committee was established which reviewed draft materials of the first four chapters of this project and provided comments and input to help insure that a realistic, viable plan was developed. This report incorporates applicable comments gained from this review process.